reported in the *Indian Express* dated the 19th July, 1990;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take any action against the Bombay based recruiting agent; and

(d) what further efforts Government propose to take to enable them to get their wages etc., and bring them back in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b). It is not a fact that 100 Indians were stranded recently in Iraq as reported in the *Indian Express* dated 19th July, 1990. As per the report received from the Embassy of India, Baghdad, 172 workers were deployed by one Bombay based recruiting agent to Iraq illegally without proper emigration clearance and proper employment contract. The workers so deployed are being paid less wages than promised and there is provision for only limited remittance of their salary to India.

(c) The matter has been referred to CBI for investigation.

(d) The Indian Embassy, Baghdad is, seized of the matter and are making all possible efforts.

Speedier Inter City Rail Services in the Country

679. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to implement the speedier inter city rail services in the major cities;

(b) if so, by when and the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) to (c). Introduction of new trains including fast intercity trains is a continuous process subject to operational feasibility and resource availability.

Annual loss due to leakage of revenue

680. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have suffered nearly a loss of Rs. 2000 crores annually due to leakage of revenue etc.;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to prevent leakage of articles etc. in the railways; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) There is some leakage of railway revenue. The amount of leakage is not quantifiable.

(b) and (c). Steps taken to prevent leakage of rvenue include measures like frequent inspections, regular ticket checking including massive concentrated checks etc.

Besides, vigilance organisation conduct preventive checks in areas where leakage takes place and investigate complaints received from various sources to bring the defaulters to book.

While charges, as due, are recovered from the defaulting rail passengers, in some cases defaulters are also prosecuted.

Action is also taken against erring railway staff in proven cases of misdemeanour.

Approval to private companies for production of Seed

681. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private companies have been making a strong bid to enter the seeds production programme in the

country and have obtained approval from the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the companies in private sector to which Government have granted approval to enter into seeds production; and

(c) whether Government propose to exercise any control on these companies to ensure quality production of seeds and availability at reasonable prices in the markets and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATIOIN IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b). private seed companies are not required to take approval for production and marketing of seeds except for MRTP- and FERA Companies. The name of the MRTP and FERA companies permitted for production and sale of seeds is attached. (*See* below)

(c) The MRTP and FERA companies are required to produce and sell only certified seeds. Thus, quality of seeds is governed as per the provisions specified in the Seeds Act, 1966 and Seed Rules made thereunder. There is no statutory control on sale price of seeds whether sold by the public sector or private sector companies.

Statement

The names of the MRTP / FERA Companies who have been permitted to operate in the seed sector.

MRTP companies

1. M/s Hindustan Lever Ltd.
2. M/s ITC Ltd.
3. M/s National Organic Chemicals & Industries Ltd.
4. M/s Hoechst India Ltd.
5. M/s J.K. Industries Ltd.
6. M/s J.K.B.M. Ltd.
7. M/s Rallis India Ltd.
8. M/s I.C.I. India Ltd.

FERA Companies

1. M/s Sandoz India Ltd.
2. M/s Cargil Seeds India Pvt. Ltd.

Action against hoarders, adulterators and blackmarketeers

682. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed the State Governments to take stringent steps against hoarders, adulterators and blackmarketeers and also keep a check on prices;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps during the past few months to check the prices etc;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) to what extent the Government have put a control on price rise of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. State Governments / UT Administrations have been advised in this direction.

(b) to (d). Government has accorded highest priority to check the rising trend in prices of essential commodities. Both long-term and short-term measures are being taken for the purpose. The measures taken by the Government broadly include steps to increase the production of essential commodities which are in short supply, effective procurement and buffer stocking operations of foodgrains; strengthening of Public Distribution System, monitoring of price and availability situation; strict enforcement of the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and other regulatory measures; and augmenting